



Design and Prototype Facility

Overview:

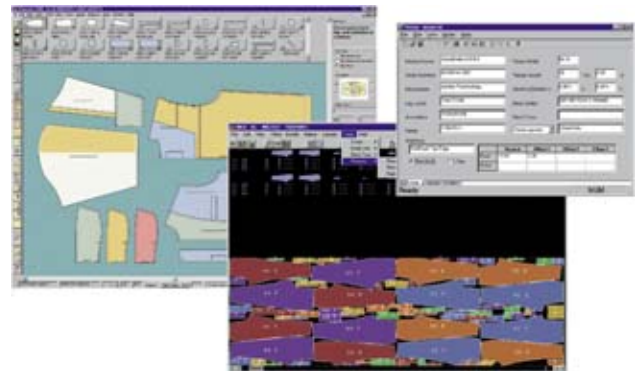
The Individual Protection Directorate of the Natick Soldier Center has a unique Design and Prototype Facility. This facility designs and develops combat and dress clothing, and equipment items including ballistic, and chemical protective items.

Description:

This Facility gives the Natick Soldier Center capability to design and develop dress and combat clothing and equipment items as well as fabricates representative prototypes and furnishes computer-graded patterns.

In the Design Facility, highly skilled clothing designers develop patterns and fabricate prototypes of end items. The facility has the various sewing machines, presses, fusing machines and ultrasonic machines necessary to accomplish this mission. These prototypes allow for initial fit/wear tests and assist in the preparation of technical data packages for large-scale procurement. Based on data collected, design changes are made and implemented, as necessary, throughout the development process, resulting in a proven final technical data package/purchase description and master pattern.

The Computer Aided Design (CAD) System provides customers state-of-the-art technology. Pattern input into the system allows the option of lifetime electronic storage of patterns. Changes and updates can be made with ease and accuracy and patterns can be sized to individual specifications. Patterns can then be sent electronically directly to the contractor or be provided via oak tag, plotter paper or on compact disk (CD). The facility utilizes a cutting edge flat bed cutter that can cut out the patterns in a timely and accurate fashion and then the design shop will make the prototype.



Point of Contact:

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